

Save your family histories



Katrina and Felix Jelen

Families in Lamar County have been asked by the Historical Society to record their family histories in the Lamar County History Book. The book of family histories is available for sale through the Historical Society and sells for \$52.50.

Orders for the book should be mailed to the Lamar County History Book, P.O. Box 1480, Purvis, MS 39475.

Felix and Katrina Jelen

Felix Jelen (1869-1946) was the son of Josef and Alzbeta Jelen of Chrastovice, Czechoslovakia.

In 1892, Felix and his future wife, Katrina Brezina (1870-1945), sailed from Hamburg, Germany to New York City on board the ship, Moravia. They journeyed on to Cleveland, Ohio where they were married and had three sons, William F. (1893-1963), Fred (1894-1978) and Rudolph A. (1898-1990).

In 1914, Felix, Katrina and Rudolph arrived on land west of Sumrall near the location where Rocky Branch Road crosses Black Creek. The Russell cemetery is located on this parcel of land. They proceeded to build a house and other buildings and to clear land for farming.

Their farm income came from pecans, row crops and other miscellaneous items that they produced. To supplement their income, Felix performed forge welding in his shop on his farm. He manufactured bodies on Model T truck chassis for the County to use for hauling dirt and gravel. He also constructed school bus bodies and truck chassis.

Felix and Katrina remained there for the rest of their lives and are buried in the Russell cemetery.